

**Sassett's**  
WRECKERS OF HIGH PRICES

**Mark down sale—CLOAKS**

**Mark Down Sale—Ladies' and Children's**

**CLOAKS CLOAKS**

**Mark Down Sale at less than cost.**

**Mark Down Sale Some at half price.**

**Mark Down Sale Beginning to-day.**

**Mark Down Sale Desirable Bargains.**

It will pay you to anticipate future wants and buy now.

Store closes at 7 p. m. each evening, except Saturdays—Saturdays 10:30.

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## How the Great Sturgeon are Caught by the Cossacks.

Of all the great Russian family, the Cossacks are undoubtedly the most warlike and independent. Their peculiar and isolated position, geographically and politically, has developed these traits in their character. The Cossacks have never attempted to subdue the lands they have been sent to occupy. In repelling the Tatars, the Kirghis and others pillaging Mongolian nomad tribes, who periodically harass the dwellers on the borderland. The Cossacks retain the Russian law of the steppe, or cooperative principle in all trades, but they give to that principle a much broader application than is found among the large western cities. Every male member of the Cossack family is required to serve three years in the regular army of Russia. A certain number leave after the Cossack and other provinces for St. Petersburg and other military stations, to relieve those other members of the tribe who have served their terms. They inherit the custom of ownership of land in common, and have equal access, as far as practice, to all the productive wealth of the community. This system is well exemplified in their great sturgeon fisheries on the Don and Ural rivers, which are their chief source of income.

The river Ural takes its rise from the Ural mountains, and flows southward about eight hundred miles to the Caspian sea. On the lower part of this river are the largest sturgeon fisheries in the world. There are much smaller fisheries on the Don and Volga, but by far the greatest catch is obtained by those of the Ural. They increase greatly in number and size as they approach the Caspian, for the fisheries belong to them exclusively, and no syndicate can interfere with their rights.

The Ural sturgeon is cartilaginous and almost boneless. The usual length of the fish is from five to six feet, but sometimes a Russo or Belyagin—of the same family—is captured which measures more than twenty feet in length. The method of fishing is peculiar. Hooks and lines are used, but the hooks on the sturgeon line have no barbs, as have those used for the capture of other fishes. The Cossacks stretch across the river, or from the shore outward, along line-fished with seines. Ordinarily one end of the line is fastened to the shore, and the other to a boat anchored in the stream. From this line descend other shorter lines, often more than a thousand in number, carrying each at its extremity an unbarbed hook. The hook is about ten inches long, and hangs in the water about seven feet from the surface. No bait is used.

The sturgeon seek a spawning ground in the fresh water, and at the approach of the proper season they swim up the river, and along the bottom of the river, and toward the ground they have selected for breeding purposes. It is during this journey that the fishing lines are set for them, and the fish blindly make their way up the river, they strike against the hooked line and are "gaffed"—first, perhaps, by a single hook. Upon being struck thus, they slash their powerful tails in their pain and anger so furiously and wildly that other hooks are embedded in the infatuated fish, until at last, hopelessly hooked, it may be in a dozen places, the sturgeon is firmly held until the line is drawn in. It is often happens that nearly every one of the one thou-

sand hooks is found imbedded in some part of a fish. In every commune or stanitsa the fishing is carried on upon a co-operative basis. The fish caught are divided equally among the Cossacks of the district. Sometimes the division of the spoils affects the direct welfare of forty or fifty stanitsas, each one of which has been an independent community. When the season opens, the great gun of the Ural is discharged as a signal for the commencement of fishing. No one draws fish for sturgeon before this signal is given. Word is then passed from stanitsa to stanitsa; communal gangs are discharged in all the villages, and the male Cossacks make their way to the river. The fishery is continued about three weeks. Another gun announces its termination, and, after this, sturgeon fishing is an offense which is severely punished, and which, therefore, is seldom known to be again necessary.

The most valuable products of the Cossack fisheries are the famous black caviar, and the caviar made from the sturgeon—a small species of sturgeon. There is a common notion, even with some of our ophthalmic makers, that caviar is simply the salted roe of the different species of sturgeon. This idea is entirely wrong. The fresh roe, especially the black, is much more highly prized, much more delicious, and consequently much more expensive than the salt. The price of either black or sturgeon roe is about \$100 a barrel. This is a large sum, while a pound of the salted article costs only sixpence. It is almost impossible to transport the fresh roe of the sturgeon, for it is as tender as the roe of a salmon, and it is very delicate. No perfectly prepared caviar, therefore, can be obtained except in the districts where the fish are taken—Yankee Blaine.

## BUILD WELL.

High on the granite wall, the builders, tolling.  
Heaved up the massive blocks and slabs in place.  
With sweat and straining brows and strains the shivers.  
Under the summer's blaze.  
And higher yet, and the chills of autumn  
Tied upon tier and arch and arch  
And still erept upward, coldly, wearily,  
Mid winter's biting snows.  
From stage to stage up springs the master builder.  
Instructing, cheering, chiding here and there.  
Scanning with scrutiny severe and rigid  
Each lusty laborer's share.  
Aston his voice to those most distant about him.  
Through the house trumpet makes his voice heard.  
Or else words like these to rouse and hearten:  
"Build well, my men, build well!"  
"The ropes are strong and new and sound the pulleys.  
The derrick's beams are equal to the strain:  
Under the level, line and plummet  
Let what be done be done in vain."  
"Build that these walls to coming generations  
Your skill, your strength, your faithfulness shall tell.  
That all may say, as storms and centuries test them:  
The men of old built well!"  
And ever thus speaks the Great Master Builder  
To us where'er our "journey work" may be.  
"What'er you build, the season, or the structure,  
Build well—build worthily!"  
—Christian at Work.

## "IN BORROWED PLUMES."

How Mr. Barker Appeared as Father's Wrath.

"Charlie!" called young Mrs. Barker through the bathroom door, "here's a letter from Tom. Shall I open it?"  
"What's that?" returned Mr. Barker, sitting bolt upright in the tub, with cold, fresh water running from his head, neck and shoulders.  
"A letter from Denver. Shall I open it?"  
"Certainly, and read it to me, will you? I shan't be out for ten minutes." Then the young woman, standing in the passage outside, read as follows:  
"I'm in on you too. He found me reading your letter. Ma said he'd come east to-morrow. I guess he's headed for here, boy, and you'd better clear out. Pop and ma mean to tell you. You'd think as if you'd seen the spending I got. Yours ever, Tom."  
Charlie Barker had consulted Mr. Hanson, it is true. Questioned closely as to his means, he had had to own that he was only a broker in a small way in fine street. Being flustered by the privilege of installing Miss Evelyn Hanson in his bachelor apartments on Twenty-third street, he had done so without the old man's permission. He had now to settle for this breach of privilege with the old man himself. No wonder he felt a little nervous.  
But all Evelyn's western blood was up; all her western independence was flashing in her eyes.  
"If you're not quite scared to death, Charlie," she said, "perhaps you'll be good enough to open your friend's, Mr. Van Lath's, letter. I see it's his writing," and she handed him a neat little note on pink paper bearing the Van Lath crest, a Dutchman on a dyke, with two demijohns full of schnapps, rampant.

The young broker broke the seal. He started up in a minute, his face wonderfully brightened, his eyes aglow with excitement.  
"The luckiest thing that could have happened to me," he cried, "Van Lath's going down to Newport; places his house at our disposal; servants, horses, everything. Liberal! Well, I should say. But he's going away for a month, and I shan't be able to go with him. Van Lath and I were at Yale together, and—upon my word, he's the best fellow in the world."  
But Evelyn didn't seem to share his enthusiasm.  
"If you don't see it yet, look here," he explained. We move into the house. Your father arrives. We've made a lucky scoop in Wall street. I didn't tell you because I wanted to test your ability and action, and all that sort of thing. The old man is angry, of course, but soon forgives us when he discovers I am wealthy. Then we entertain him royally, and when he's really found out what an excellent fellow I am, he confesses. God bless you, my children, and it's all right. See!"  
Evelyn nodded. "Go on," she cried, encouragingly.  
"I don't think anything more to be said," answered Mr. Barker. "Action's what we want. It's half-past ten now. The tyrant of Denver will be here inside of an hour. We must pack and clear out at once."  
"You stop calling popper names, or you'll do all the packing. You'd be angry yourself if you'd lost such a treasure. I am."  
She made a little tempting mouth at him across the breakfast table.  
In half an hour the pair were in a cab on their way to Mr. Van Lath's house. Ann remained behind to care for the breakfast table.  
Van Lath's old colored butler stood at the door to receive them and follow his master's instructions: "Treat them just as if the house was theirs, John."

## AFTER OLD SHOES.

Their Feet Were Too Large to Look Well for the Purpose.  
"Have you any second-hand shoes?" inquired a young lady at a leading Louisville shoe store.  
"We don't sell second-hand shoes, miss," said the clerk, shortly.  
"No, of course not. I didn't want to buy them, but if you happened to have any that had been left here by persons buying new ones, you know," she suggested mysteriously.  
"Oh, certainly. Here are a pair of buttoned shoes—light, but quite new. Would they do?"  
"What number are they?"  
"Two—small two at that. And here is one bronze slipper—thirteen. I'll take them all. Thank you so much," and she proffered the clerk a payment for the refuse shoes.  
"There is no charge," he said as he handed them to her in a neat package. "If you want them for a hanging basket!"  
"Merely, no! My sister is to be married this evening, and we want them to throw after the carriage. Our own are all new and it must be an old shoe shod to bring luck."  
"See," said the clerk, and he gazed dreamily after her retreating form, muttering in a vivid monologue: "And the family shoe range from slaps to slights that nearly every one of the one thou-

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The population of Massachusetts in 1790 was 375,787, or about 10,000 less than the population of the single city of Boston to-day.

The population of the state of New York in 1790 was 340,128. There are seven cities in the United States to-day—New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Brooklyn, St. Louis, Boston and Baltimore, that contain a larger population than did the entire state of New York in 1790.

The population of the entire country in 1790 was 3,929,214. The whole country, then, one hundred years ago, contained about as many people as is contained in the three cities of New York, Chicago and Philadelphia. The state of New York, as well as the state of Pennsylvania has a far larger population to-day than did the entire United States in 1790. If New York City should annex Brooklyn and the other contiguous cities, the mayor of the new consolidated city would govern a population almost as large as that governed by President Washington.

In the census of 1890 Mississippi, Indiana, Ohio and the District of Columbia were included, which were not included in the census of 1790. The population increased about a million and a half in ten years, and at the opening of the century our population was 38,481, or several hundred thousand less than the present population of the state of New York. There was not a single state that had a population as large as the present population of New York, Philadelphia or Brooklyn.

In the census of 1810 were included Illinois, Louisiana, Michigan and Missouri, not included in previous censuses. The population increased almost two millions in ten years, and was 7,232,881. Virginia had the largest population, and contained 914,000 people.

So there was not a single state in the Union, even then, with as large a population as is now possessed by either of the cities of New York, Chicago or Philadelphia.

In the census of 1820 Arkansas was the only name represented which had not been represented in some previous census. The population had increased considerably over two millions, and was 9,033,822. New York was the largest state, and contained 1,372,111 population, a figure considerably smaller than that represented by the present population of the city of New York.

Florida is the only new name represented in the census of 1830. The population had increased over three millions, and was 13,538,025. The largest state was New York, which then contained a population of 1,918,008. This is the first time in our history when our largest state was larger than our present largest city.

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In 1860 Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Nevada, Idaho and Wyoming were represented for the first time. The population had increased in round numbers to thirty-one millions.

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We learn from this brief survey that the population of the United States doubles at least once in thirty years. If this rate of increase keeps on for the next one hundred years we shall have in 1990 a population exceeding 300,000,000, or about one-half the present population of the entire world—Yankee Blaine.

Parata, the Maori Sea Monster.

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